



Sunday Blast

May 7, 2023
"You Shall Be Holy"

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: "Speak to all the congregation of the Israelites and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy." (Leviticus 19:1-2, NRSV)

We Shall Be Holy?

On the Jewish calendar for the week of April 23, the Torah portion reading was Leviticus chapters 16-20, and in the reading, there are warnings and dozens of divine commandments, through which, by observing, the Israelites sanctified themselves and understood the holiness of God. Included in this Torah portion, for example, is the admonition to practice charity, the idea of equality before the law, observing the Sabbath, sexual morality, honesty in business, honoring one's parents, and the sacredness of life. So, in essence, a list of things to do to be "holy," a guide for living into our innate dignity as children of God. In this Torah portion we read that we "shall be holy." That is quite a statement! Surely, it only applies to the ancient Israelites...not to us! But, let us not jump to that conclusion too fast. Two weeks ago in the Sunday Blast we read that God created humankind in the divine image of God. Last week we read that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made." And we are told how we behave towards others matters...

Have You Heard of "Charity: Water" Founded by Scott Harrison?

Scott was a successful nightclub promoter who struggled with addiction and feelings of emptiness. However, after a life-changing trip to Liberia where he witnessed extreme poverty and suffering, he turned to Christianity and founded the charity organization "Charity: Water." Through his work with the organization, he has helped bring clean water to millions of people in need, and Scott has found a new sense of purpose and dignity in his life. Scott's ministry is a wonderful example of reclaiming God's image and living as a "holy one." (For more about Scott and his ministry see <https://www.charitywater.org/about/scott-harrison-story>)



OUR WORK

771 million people lack basic access to clean and safe drinking water. We're on a mission to change that.

Our Prayer for this Week

Dear God, We come to you in prayer, humbly seeking your guidance and wisdom as we strive to live holy lives. Your word in Leviticus 19:1-2 reminds us of the importance of following your example of moral excellence and worthiness. We are grateful for the reminder that holiness is foundational to human dignity, and that we are called to show respect and honor not only to you but also to our fellow human beings. We are inspired by the examples of compassion, justice, and love that we see in our lives, and we pray that you will help us to follow your example in our own lives. May we treat others with the same care and consideration that we would want for ourselves, and may we always seek to uphold their dignity and worth as your beloved children. May we be instruments of your peace in the world, working tirelessly to bring about justice, compassion, and love wherever we go. We ask for your continued guidance and strength as we strive to live holy lives, and we pray that you will fill us with your grace and love every day. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Prayer box: let us pray for healing and comfort – Robin, Lynn, Bill, Mark, Joyce, and Andy; let us pray for comfort for those who mourn; pray for hope in those who have suffered due to severe weather.